

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19 (canceled)

5 20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

10 23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

15 25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The A toothbrush of elongate form, comprising,
20 bristles;
a distal portion;
a proximal portion as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal
portion is of a generally flat shape in a plane that is essentially
inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the brush, and
25 which proximal portion extends between the bristles and the distal
portion in the longitudinal direction; and
an intermediate portion between the distal and proximal portions,
wherein
30 the toothbrush has, on a flat horizontal support, at least one position
of stable equilibrium;
in any position of stable equilibrium of the toothbrush on the
support, the longitudinal direction of the toothbrush is essentially
parallel to the support and the bristles lie at a distance from the
support and extend toward the support; and
35 for any position in which the toothbrush is supported by a flat
horizontal support with the longitudinal direction essentially
parallel to the support, the distal and proximal portions constitute
the portions of contact of the toothbrush with the flat support and
the intermediate portion lying at a distance from the support.

40 28. (currently amended) The A toothbrush of elongate form, comprising,
bristles;
a distal portion;
a proximal portion as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal
45 portion is which is off-center with respect to a central longitudinal
axis of the brush, and which proximal portion extends between the
bristles and the distal portion in the longitudinal direction; and
an intermediate portion between the distal and proximal portions,

wherein

the toothbrush has, on a flat horizontal support, at least one position of stable equilibrium;

in any position of stable equilibrium of the toothbrush on the support, the longitudinal direction of the toothbrush is essentially parallel to the support and the bristles lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support; and

for any position in which the toothbrush is supported by a flat

horizontal support with the longitudinal direction essentially

parallel to the support, the distal and proximal portions constitute the portions of contact of the toothbrush with the flat support and the intermediate portion lying at a distance from the support.

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(iv) The brush as claimed in claim 27, wherein there is only one position of stable equilibrium of the brush.

42. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 27, wherein the proximal portion exhibits a single point of contact with the support in one or more positions of stable equilibrium.

45 43. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 27, wherein, for any position in which the brush is supported by a flat horizontal support with the longitudinal direction essentially parallel to the support, the proximal portion exhibits a single point of contact with the support.

44. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 27, wherein the proximal portion has an elastomeric outer face.

5 45. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 27, wherein the distal portion exhibits two points of contact with the support in one or more positions of stable equilibrium.

10 46. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 27, wherein the distal portion has a flat part generally parallel to the longitudinal direction of the brush.

47. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein there is only one position of stable equilibrium of the brush.

15 48. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein the proximal portion exhibits a single point of contact with the support in one or more positions of stable equilibrium.

20 49. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein, for any position in which the brush is supported by a flat horizontal support with the longitudinal direction essentially parallel to the support, the proximal portion exhibits a single point of contact with the support.

25 50. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein the proximal portion has an elastomeric outer face.

30 51. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein the distal portion exhibits two points of contact with the support in one or more positions of stable equilibrium.

52. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 28, wherein the distal portion has a flat part generally parallel to the longitudinal direction of the brush.

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